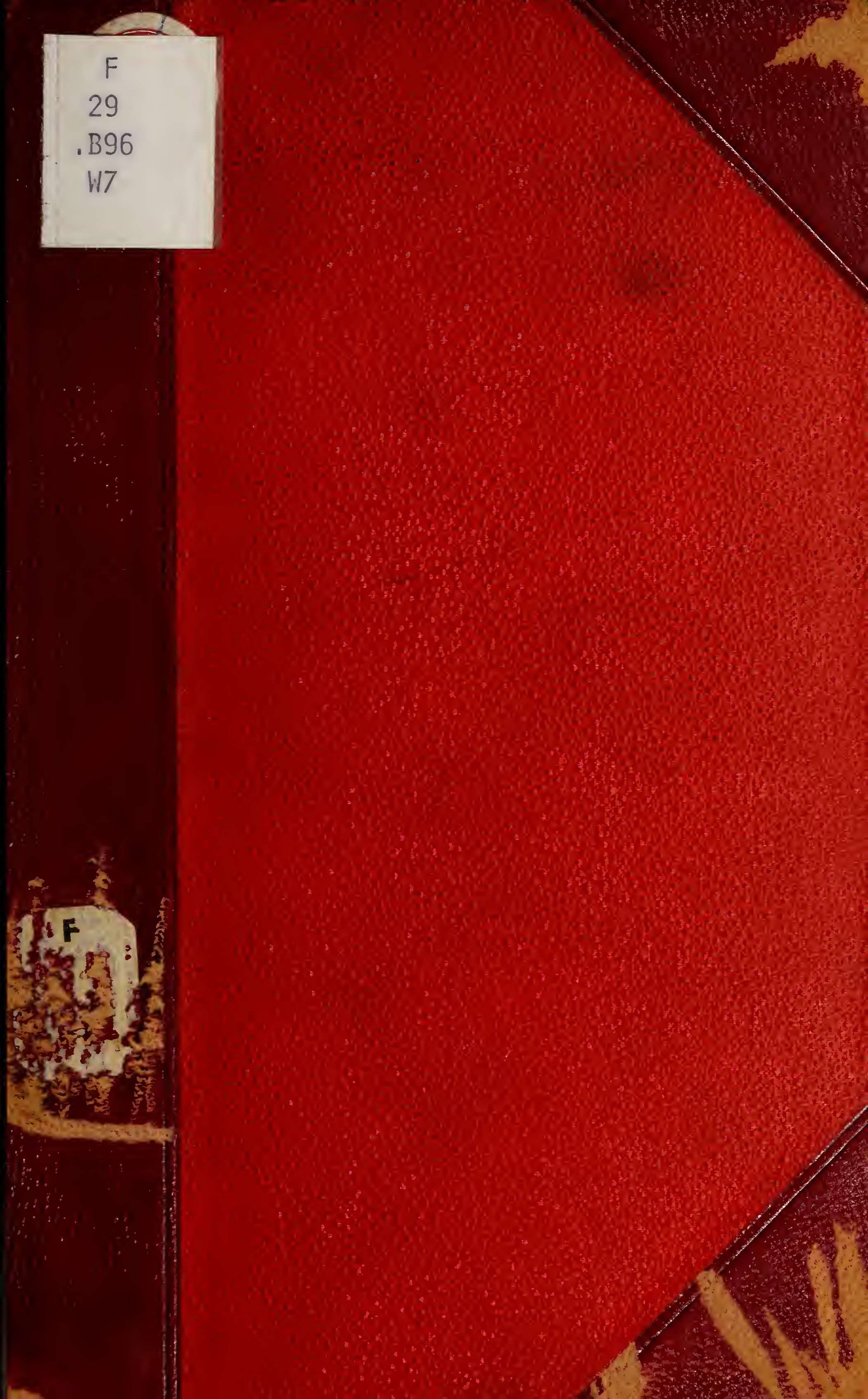
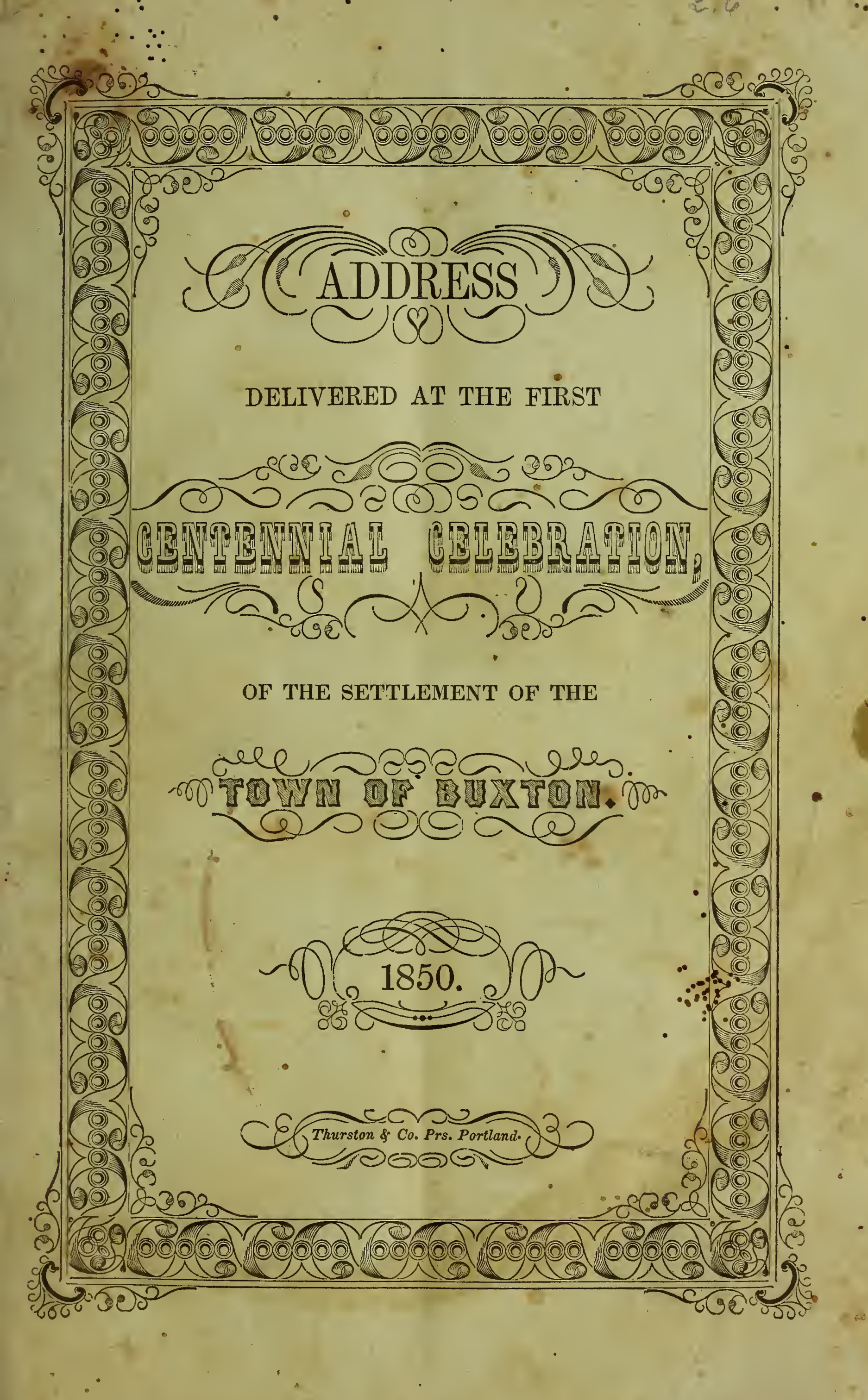

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ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE FIRST

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE

TOWN OF BUXTON.

1850.

Thurston & Co. Prs. Portland.

AN

ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AT BUXTON, MAINE,

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-HOUSE,

BEING THE

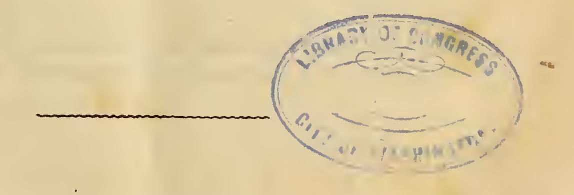
FIRST CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

SETTLEMENT OF THIS TOWN.

BY REV. NATHANIEL WEST WILLIAMS.

1850.



PRINTED BY THURSTON & CO.:
PORTLAND, MAINE.
1850.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Committee of Arrangements tender their thanks to the Rev. N. W. Williams, for the truly able and appropriate address delivered before the citizens of Buxton, on the 17th instant, it being the first Centennial Anniversary of the settlement of this town, and request a copy of the same for the press.

CHARLES WATTS,
SAMUEL DUNNELL,
DANIEL APPLETON,
ABEL MERRILL,
A. L. CAME,
GERRY ROUNDS, JR.

Buxton, October 26, 1850.

Buxton, October 30, 1850.

Gentlemen: —

Your request of the 26th instant, for the publication of my Address on the Centennial Celebration of the settlement of Buxton, has been received. In reply, I observe that, if to preserve a connected history of past events relating to the origin and progress of this town be desirable, the manuscript is at your service. Grateful for the honor you have done me by your appointment and the expression of your satisfaction with my labor, I subscribe,

With great respect,

Your obed't Servant,

N. W. WILLIAMS.

To Charles Watts, Esq., Samuel Dunnell, Daniel Appleton, Abel Merrill, A. L. Came, Gerry Rounds, Jr., *Committee of Arrangements.*

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ADDRESS.

Friends and Fellow Citizens:

The occasion of our assembling within these hallowed walls to-day, is the expiration of the hundredth year since the foot-prints of our fathers were impressed upon this soil. It is one of those rare occasions, in which the whole population of the town has a common interest. It is to celebrate an event, interesting in its reminiscences, important in its results to the immediate actors, to the generations intervening, and to the generations yet to come. It is to contemplate by a succinct review, the prominent events of a century past, to consider the character and deeds of our fathers, and, as it were, to associate and hold intercourse with the departed dead.

The occasion may justly be improved to excite sympathy for their privations, thankfulness for their success in preparing and laying the foundation of our present prosperity, veneration for their religion, for the laws which they enacted, for the sobriety of their lives, and for their love of civil and religious liberty. May the allwise and infinite Being who raised up and supported our worthy ancestors in planting this town, enable us to copy all the virtues which they exhibited, to preserve unimpaired the blessings transmitted to us; and when we depart this life, to leave to our posterity whatever good we have received, with such examples, as shall reflect honor upon our names, illustrate the advantages of rational freedom, and induce them to hand down the same, unsullied and undiminished, to their rising progeny.

As an inland place, the inhabitants of which have been employed, chiefly in the peaceful and quiet business of husbandry, no very great and startling events are to be anticipated in its past history. Yet it may be observed, that we cannot stand here to-day, and take a retrospect of a hundred years, without discovering a number of interesting events and transactions, well worth our remembrance; and adapted by their recollection to benefit ourselves and those who may succeed us.

The history of wars and battles is often employed to rouse the imagination and give an imposing splendor to the character of a nation.

The youth of our country should be taught to consider the conflicts and carnage of the battle-field, as the deplorable results of pride and ambition, or, as the pursuits of barbarians, to be deplored, rather than emulated; as in fine, *excresences* on the body politic.

The most valuable, because the most useful lessons in history, are those which relate to the progress of civilization, the expansion of intellect, and the promotion of morals.

Such is the nature of the history that we would pursue on this Centennial Celebration.

The *day* on which the *permanent* settlement of this township was commenced, is not known; but it is known to have occurred in the autumn of 1750, and is believed to have occurred about this time.

The settlement of New England, owes its origin to a train of peculiar providences, directed by an infinitely wise mind; all of which tended to bring about events, adapted to the establishment of a government and religion, upon the basis of rational freedom and scriptural principles.

The discovery of the New World, in 1492, by Columbus, and of the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland in 1496–7, by the Cabots, together with the "wild New England coast," were events, pregnant with the greatest consequences to the English nation, and to their unborn posterity.

"No attempt was made for more than a hundred years after that period, to effect a permanent settlement. A long dark night, settled down upon this vast unexplored continent.

"Toward the close of the sixteenth century, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, undertook, each, an expedition: the one to Newfoundland, the other, for the discovery of lands north of Florida, both of which proved disastrous. The French were equally unsuccessful in their attempts; so that not a single European family was planted on the coast, until the commencement of the seventeenth century. This vast and dreary solitude, says Mr. George Folsom, was first broken on the border of this State, by the French Colony of De Mont, who passed the winter of 1603-4, on the Island St. Croix, in the waters which separate Maine from New Brunswick."

Up to this time, the navigation of the Atlantic Ocean had been regarded with terror, for a major part of the year. But repeated voyages of European fishermen to Newfoundland, dispelled those fears and encouraged adventurers to the north-eastern coast of this continent.

The spirit of colonization, which had declined, was revived about the same period; and Captain George Weymouth, discovered the Penobscot bay and river. A very interesting and important circumstance of his voyage was, that on his return to England, he took with him five of the native Indians, belonging to the Penobscot tribe, three of whom he committed to the care of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Governor of Plymouth. From those Indians, he gained much information, respecting the country lying between the Pemaquid and Sagadahock* rivers, islands and harbors.

In 1616, Sir Ferdinando sent from England a party, under the command of Captain Richard Vines, on an exploring expedition. Captain Vines penetrated into the interior, and secured a pleasant and safe understanding with all the Sa-

* Penobscot and Kennebec.

chems, and their people, and trafficked to good advantage.

Some that were "husbandmen, took up tracks of land of a hundred acres, each, upon rent merely nominal." Some of these are on record. A specimen may be presented as a curiosity.

"An estate that had been in the possession of Thos. Cole, including a mansion or dwelling house, was leased by Capt. Vines to John West, for the term of a thousand years, for the annual rent of two shillings and one capon, a previous consideration having been paid by West. The lease, which is partly in the Latin language, was executed in 1638. Another deed from Vines, requires the lessee, for a similar tract, to pay an annual rent of five shillings sterling, two days' work and one fat goose, yearly. In this manner, all planters, were tenants to the proprietors, no one holding an estate in fee simple." *

As showing the labors and hardships of first settlers in a new country, a fact may be related respecting Mr. Levett's exploration of the coast, from the "Isle of Shoulds" on which he first landed, to the Sagadahock river. "About four leagues east from Cape Porpoise, he says, there is another harbor called Sawco. Before we could recover that harbor, I lost one of my men, and a great fog or mist took us, that we could not see a hundred yards. Perceiving the fog to come from the sea, I called for a compass and set the Cape land, by which we knew how to steer our course, which was no sooner done, than we lost sight of the land and my other boat. The wind blew fresh against us, so that instead of sails, we had to resort to our oars, which we used with all the wit and strength we had, but could by no means recover the shore. Being embayed and compassed with *breaks* which roared in a most frightful manner, we took counsel, what to do to save our lives. At length, I caused our killick, which was all the anchor we had, to be cast forth, and one

* Folsom's Hist., New England Gaz.

See also Folsom's History of Saco & Biddeford

man continually to hold his hand upon the rood or cable, by which we knew whether our anchor held or no; which being done, we commended ourselves to God by prayer and put on a resolution to be as comfortable as we could, and so fell to our victuals. Thus we spent the night, and the next morning, we got into Sawco, where I found my other boat." *

Several attempts to settle upon the New England coast were made by Gosnold, Pring, De Mont, and the intrepid Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and the equally bold and adventurous Captain John Smith.† But little was done, that could be regarded as a permanent settlement, upon the New England coast, till December 22, 1620, when the Pilgrims landed from the May-Flower, on the Rock of Plymouth, where nothing but barrenness, sterility and ice lay before them. That, however, was not the locality which they had designed to occupy. They had selected the beautiful situation, from which New York derives so many advantages,—the mouth of the Hudson river. But He whose ways are perfect, so overruled the intrigues of the Dutch, and the false-heartedness of the Captain of the May-Flower, as to make their disappointment and sufferings, the means of establishing a colony in New England, which was destined to become the most important community, politically and religiously, which the world has ever known.

The motives which prompted that noble band of exiles, were very unlike the motives which prompted the numerous adventurers, who had attempted to gain a footing upon our eastern coast.

Those adventurers were prompted by the hope of gain. The Pilgrims, who were God-fearing men, exiled themselves from their native land, for the sake of religion, and "freedom to worship God," according to the Bible and the dictates of an enlightened conscience. Happy would it have been, had

* Leavett's Voyage, in Maine Historical Collections.

† Williamson's History of Maine.

their immediate posterity carried out the principles of the Pilgrims, instead of subjecting men to fines, disabilities, and scourging for matters of faith.

The colony at Plymouth being firmly established and known in England, the spirit of emigration and colonization arose, and induced, in the course of a few years, several attempts to settle upon the main land and islands of the coast, under the different charters obtained from the crown.

Among the patented grants, was that which received the name of "The Province of Laconia." This province was described by travelers and novelists, as abounding with all that is beautiful on land, and in woods and waters. It included in the patent, all the country between the Merrimac and Kennebec, and extended from the Atlantic to the Canada and Iroquois and toward the great lakes.*

Other settlements were attempted from year to year, each affording encouragement to another. Among the earliest successful attempts, was that commenced at the mouth of the Saco in 1623. But so little was effected, that the settlement of Biddeford and Saco, are regarded as bearing date 1630–31, a hundred and twenty years prior to the settlement of this town, though but eight miles distant from them.

Two hundred and twenty years have passed since *permanent* settlements were established on our coast. From that time to the present, Maine has continued steadily to advance in population, wealth and intelligence. Instead of log habitations, and forts for defense against their savage foes, are to be seen, in numerous towns and cities, stately dwellings, and costly edifices devoted to the liberal arts, to literature and religion.

The review of these changes, should excite grateful emotions in every bosom, and induce a just appreciation of the toils and sufferings of those, who, under the guidance of an all-wise Providence, were the honored instruments of handing down to us, an invaluable inheritance.

* Williamson's History.

Right to settle this town, like that of her six Narragansett sisters, was awarded to individuals, who fought in the war with the Narragansett Indians, in 1675, which ended in a complete triumph and annihilation of the whole tribe.

The Narragansett country embraced what is now the southwesterly part of Rhode Island, and northeasterly part of Connecticut. Between the Narragansett Indians and the existing government of New England, there had been a good understanding; the tribe having surrendered their country to the colonists, by treaty. But, as Cotton Mather remarks, "they broke their articles of peace in divers instances, and plotted a war with the English, in the spring of 1676, when the leaves of the trees should befriend them.* Their design coming to the knowledge of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, it was resolved in the depth of winter, to send a vigorous expedition to subdue them. An army of a thousand men, afterward increased to fifteen hundred, was raised, under the command of the gallant and truly honorable Josiah Winslow, Esq., and marched into the Narragansett country. On the 12th of December, 1675, they arrived there and immediately captured about forty Indians, among whom was one by the name of *Peter*. This man being offended with his own people, befriended the whites, and became so faithful and useful a guide, that it was afterwards said, they could not have succeeded without him. The army, however, suffered not a little, while waiting for the Connecticut troops, especially by the surprisal of a remote garrison, belonging to a man by the name of Bull, where fourteen persons were baited to death by the terrible dogs.

As soon as the Continental forces arrived, the whole army marched on the 18th, by break of day, through cold and snow, encountering difficulties for eighteen miles, enough to have damped any ordinary fortitude. The Indians had a fort upon an island, of five or six acres in the midst of a horrid swamp, which, besides its pallisadoes, had a wall, or

* Indians fight in ambush, from behind trees, bushes and fences.

hedge, a rod thick encompassing it. The entrance to the fort, was upon a large tree over the water, where but one man could pass at a time, and this entrance guarded in such a manner, that no one could attempt to enter, without perishing. But by the help of Peter, they found a vulnerable gap, the only place which presented any hope of effecting an entrance, and that not without extreme danger. As the Colonial troops advanced towards this gap, they felt that the result must be victory or death. The first attempt was fatal to six of their brave captains, which only served to fire the rage of the soldiers, who succeeded in compelling the enemy to fly from their shelters and abandon the fort, which was immediately burnt. No less than seven hundred Indian warriors, were slain in the battle, besides three hundred, who died of their wounds, and old men and women and children a great number; while but eighty-five of the English were slain, and a hundred and fifty wounded. The battle lasted six hours, and was one of the most sanguinary and bloody; besides which, the severity of the cold, so disabled some hundreds of those brave fellows, that they were entirely unfit for duty."

Such, fellow citizens, was the price paid for the seven Narragansett towns. Such were the heroes to whom those townships were granted, in reward of their perils and sufferings, in that terrible war, to the number of eight hundred and forty, who belonged to Massachusetts. To these brave and chivalrous soldiers and their heirs, the legislature of the province deemed it equitable to make grants of unimproved land.

Accordingly, two townships were granted in the year 1728, and five more in 1732. These seven townships, were granted on the usual conditions, that "the grantees should meet within two months from the date of the act, to organize each proprietary of one hundred and twenty persons — to settle, at least sixty families within seven years — to settle a learned, Orthodox minister — to erect a meeting-house — to clear a certain number of acres, and to reserve a certain proportion

of the township for the use of schools and the first settled minister."*

These conditions being agreed to, the grantees held a meeting on "Boston Common, on the 6th June, 1733, and formed themselves into seven separate societies or proprietaries of one hundred and twenty persons. Three persons from each company, were then chosen to make out a list of the grantees, and to assign a township to each proprietary. The seven committees, of three each, afterward met at Luke Verdy's in Boston, October 17th, of the same year, and made the several assignments as follows:"

Narragansett, No. 1. Now Buxton, on Saco river; 2. At Wachusett, adjoining Rutland, Mass.; 3. Now Amherst, N. H., on the Souhegan river; 4. Now Goffstown, N. H.; 5. Now Merrimac and Bedford, N. H., on the Merrimac river, 6. Now Templeton, N. H., formerly Southtown; 7. Now Gorham, on the Presumpscott river.

The tract of country constituting this township and No. 7, lies between, and running from the Saco to the Presumpscott, beginning at that part of Biddeford which is now Saco, and running on the head of Saco, Scarborough and Westbrook, to the Presumpscott. No. 1, now Buxton, was assigned to Philemon Dane, of Ipswich, and one hundred and nineteen others, belonging to Ipswich, Rowley, Newbury, Haverhill, Salisbury, Methuen, Hampton, Greenland and Berwick. The committee were, Philemon Dane and John Gaines, of Ipswich, and Colonel Joseph Gerrish, of Newbury. The township was surveyed in 1733, and reported in February, 1734.‡

The first meeting of the proprietors was held at Captain John Hale's at Newbury Falls, when Colonel Gerrish acted as Moderator, and John Hobson, Esq., was appointed Clerk;

*John Farmer, Esq., in Maine Historical Collections, Vol. 2.
† John Farmer, Esq. ‡ Ibid.

Note. Douglas, in his Summary, and Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts, says that nine townships were *voted*, but only seven *granted*, to the Narragansett soldiers and their heirs.

who, with Colonel Joseph Coffin, of Newbury, Colonel Tristram Jordan, of Saco, Deacon Thomas Bradbury, and the Honorable John Woodman, of Buxton, were elected to fill that office, till the proprietors should cease to act in that capacity. At this and subsequent meetings, measures were taken for the occupation or disposal of their rights, as by law provided. But no settlement was attempted till 1740 or 1741, when Deacon Amos Chase, from Newbury, Joseph Simpson, Nathan Whitney, with Messrs. Gage and Bryant, entered the plantation and began to fell the trees and build log cabins, for shelter.*

The proprietors feeling an interest for the settlement of the town, thought it their duty to make early provision for the Christian instruction of the settlers. With this desire before them, it was "resolved on the 11th April, 1739, that Deacon John Fellows, Nathan Simonds, Samuel Hovey, Isaac Appleton, and Captain Nathaniel Mighill, be a committee to agree with some person, or persons, to build a meeting-house, for the public worship of God in said township, forty by thirty feet, of convenient height, to have on tiers of galleries, to state a place, and order said place to be cleared to set said house on, and also to have said house finished by the last day of September, 1740." On the 11th of June following, the above vote was reconsidered and made void. At the same meeting, it was "Ordered, That Messrs. Mighill, Appleton and Chase, be authorized to agree with some person or persons, to clear some land on the westerly end of the first or second lot, known by the letter D in the first division in said township, and to build a meeting-house of thirty by twenty-five and nine feet stud, of hewn timber, the roof to be boarded and short-shingled, and to be finished and fit to preach in, by the last day of September, 1740." †

The execution of this resolve was delayed, on account of a threatened French war, till October 20, 1742, when the fol-

* Proprietors' Records. † Ibid.

lowing record was entered: "Whereas, there was a committee chosen some time passed to build a meeting-house at the township laid to the Narragansett soldiers, called No. 1, and by reason of the talk of a French war, it is not yet built, it is now voted, that said committee shall forthwith go on and fully build and complete said meeting-house." In the warrant for a town meeting, May 1, 1744, an article was inserted to see whether the town would take effectual care to glaze the meeting-house." But when the meeting was held it was immediately adjourned, and at several other meetings, this article was passed over. The proprietors being not unmindful of the object in building their meeting-house, appointed "Samuel Chase, Deacon Samuel Moody, and Deacon Aaron Potter, a committee, with power to agree with some suitable and learned Orthodox gentleman, to preach to the proprietors and inhabitants of said plantation." *

How long Deacon Amos Chase and his associate settlers continued in the plantation, is not certain. But it is known that all of them left about the commencement of the Cape Breton war., in the year 1745.

After that time, there were no settlers for four or five years, in the course of which time, "tresspasses were committed by men of Saco, who cut large quantities of grass and much timber." † The following fact will show the dangers to which the first settlers were exposed. "Having made some clearings, and having crops growing, the year before they moved in, they came up occasionally from the block-house to visit their openings. On a certain day, as they came by their little fort, which they had built about a dozen rods from the dwelling of Samuel Merrill, they found the gate open, which they had left shut. Captain Bradbury being aware of danger from the Indians, told them that they "must not return in their path." They then struck through the woods, forded the river, and returned safe to the block-house, on Hollis side. After the war was over, the same Indians came

* Proprietors' Record. † Ibid.

into the settlement to trade, and told that when they went by the fort, going into the opening, they were frightened and hid in the chamber — that they went away forgetting to shut the gate, and waylaid the settlers all day by the path.* Thus, the simple circumstance of forgetting to shut the gate indicated danger, and the directing hand of God saved them from the tomahawk and scalping-knife of their savage foes.

In the fall of 1850, (month and day not now known,) the first permanent settlement was commenced, by the seven following persons and their families, viz: William Hancock, John Elden, Samuel Merrill, Timothy Hazelton, Job Roberts, John Wilson, and Joshua Woodman. In the lapse of nine years after, James Thomas and Ephraim Sands, with seven others moved into the settlement."† Mr. Hancock, from Londonderry, in Ireland, settled on the right side of the road, leading from the First Congregational meeting-house to Salmon Falls. He was a respectable man, and died in the meridian of life, leaving a number of descendants, some of whom are yet living. He took the first newspaper that came into town. Samuel Merrill, grand-father of the present Deacon Thomas Merrill, of Turner, was from Salisbury, Massachusetts. He was a Lieutenant at the battle of Bunker Hill, under the command of Captain Jeremiah Hill, and settled within a quarter of a mile of Salmon Falls, on the Saco road, then, and long after, known as the 'Eight Rod Road.' He died in 1822, aged ninety-three years, leaving numerous respectable descendants. Timothy Hazelton, who was a Deacon of the Church from its organization till his death, came from Bradford, Massachusetts, and settled within a few rods of the meeting-house. John Elden and Job Roberts, were both from Saco, and settled near to Deacon Merrill and lived to old age. John Elden was an enterprising man, and commanded a company at the seige of Boston, with honor to himself, and died leaving numerous descendants in the town. Joseph and Joshua Woodman were broth-

* Deacon Thomas Merrill. † Ibid.

ers, from Newbury, Massachusetts, and settled near to Pleasant Point. Both were leading men and lived to old age. John Wilson settled on the Beach Plain road, leading from the Lower Corner to Saco, but continued only for a short time.

The first settlers probably located themselves in the southerly part of the town, not from a preference of soil, but for convenience of market at Saco, and hope of protection from their fort, and from the block-house on Hollis side of the river, which was commanded by Captain Thomas Bradbury for many years.*

The plantation remained as such until July, 1772, when it was incorporated by the General Court of Massachusetts, by its present name, from Buxton, in England.

It is a fact worthy of note, that when the township was granted, above half of those to whom it was assigned, and who were in the Narragansett war fifty years before, were still living. At this time, there are descendants of only two of the original grantees, residing in the town, viz: Daniel Appleton and Joseph Hobson, from Rowley. Note A.

The first child born in the township, was, (according to a private record left by John Elden,) *Rebecca Chase*, daughter of Deacon Amos Chase, who removed from Newbury, Old town, in 1740 or 1741; but remained only a few years, and then returned to Newbury. Afterwards he removed to Saco, where he died. He drove the first team from the plantation to Saco. † Note B.

The second child was *Rebecca Woodman*, daughter of Captain John Woodman. She was born January 11, old style, 1751. She was married to Lieutenant Moses Atkinson, 1772, and died February 3d, 1833. The first *male* child born in the town, was *Nathan Elden*, son of John Elden, an original proprietor; the *second* was *Robert Martin*, of whom the following story is related, as showing the privations and sufferings to which the settlers of a new country are often liable; "Mr. Martin became destitute of bread-

* Maine Historical Collections, Vol. 2. † Captain S. Dunnell.

stuff, at a time when none could be purchased nearer than Saco, and resolved to go and obtain some. Of his endeavor to procure relief, he relates the following story: 'In the morning I got up and milked my cow, and drank some of the milk for my breakfast. I then started on foot with bag to obtain a supply of food. It was about the last of May. On my arrival at Colonel Cutts's in Saco, I related my destitute condition, when he promptly supplied me with as much as I could carry on my back. I received one bushel of corn, twenty-eight pounds of fish, one gallon of molasses, two pounds of coffee, and one pound of tobacco, and started for home with my load. When I reached Deep Brook, I laid down my burden, and drank of the stream and rested awhile. Again I went on with my load and reached as far as Captain Bradbury's, where I again unloaded, drank and rested. Again shouldering my treasure, I started and soon reached my home, and took another draft of milk, which was the only food taken for the day. I then shouldered half of my corn, travelled two miles to the river, built a small raft, crossed over, got my grist ground at Ridlon's mill, and returned home with my meal. My journey and toil being ended, I sat down and waited, while a cake could be baked, and suffered more than I did through the whole of the day, and felt as if I should die of fatigue and hunger.' " *

The early records of the plantation, and of the town after being incorporated, show that the proprietors and settlers were not unmindful of the advantages of roads and bridges and mills.

They laid out a number of school districts, a parsonage lot for the use of the first settled minister, and burying-grounds for the dead. School-*houses* were not so early provided. The children were taught in a private room in the winter, and in a barn in the summer. Even now, quite a number of the school-houses need much improvement, both in size and construction. There are six public burying-grounds. But

* Captain S. Dunnell.

while they are sufficiently capacious, they do not indicate that attention and interest which should ever characterize places of interment.

Though the town was incorporated but three years before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the fathers of Buxton were not wanting in patriotism and readiness to defend the cause of civil and religious freedom, for which *their* fathers crossed the broad Atlantic and settled on the bleak and desolate shore of Cape Cod.

"In the month of June, 1774, the town met in their corporate capacity, and after deliberating upon the oppressions and injustice of the British toward their Colonies in North America, they appointed Capts John Elden and John Lane, Samuel Merill, Samuel Hovey and John Mason, a committee to draw up spirited resolutions in behalf of the town and in concurrence with the 'Committee of Correspondence' in Boston and other towns, expressive of their sense of the injustice of the British in blocking up the harbor of Boston, and other acts which they deemed unjustifiable and subversive of American Liberty. A further indication of the patriotism of the town, appears in their furnishing a quota of men, provisions and clothing, from time to time for the army, and in voting thirty pounds sterling for the relief of the families of those who enlisted in the year 1778." * *Note C.*

"The first military commanders in the town, were John Elden, Samuel Merrill and Thomas Bradbury, who were appointed under the authority of the King of England. On the day of rejoicing for peace, in 1783, they resigned their commissions. On that happy occasion, an iron three-pounder was hauled up from Saco, and fired near the Garland tavern. Among the rejoicing throng, was a young man by the name of Andrews, who swung the match. Not being acquainted with *big guns*, he became so much alarmed at the spring of the gun, which was heavily charged and become

* Proprietors' Records.

warm, that he fainted from fear, and had to be nursed and wrapp'd in flannel to recruit him."

Joseph Woodman, jr., Samuel Merrill, jr., and Gibeon Elden were the first commissioned officers under the Constitution of Massachusetts; not long after, the militia of the town was divided into two companies, and Capt. Hugh Moore, Mark Rounds and John Smith were appointed in the second company, leaving Capt. Bradbury who commanded the Blockhouse, in charge of the south division." *

In the necessities of the settlers, their *men* were sometimes obliged to leave their families without a guard.

It happened at a certain time that all the men being absent for a day and a night, some circumstances, imaginary or real, occurred, inducing the women to think that their savage foes were approaching. At that anxious moment, the wife of Capt. Elden, alone maintained her self-possession and courage. She did her best to inspirit her female associates, assured that flight would be vainly attempted, but stratagem might succeed. Mrs. Elden was a fearless woman, and could well assume a character when occasion called for it. Her plan was matured in a moment. She resolved upon a demonstration, which should deceive the foemen and induce their belief that the men had returned, or had received a reinforcement which would meet them with *substantial arguments.* Accordingly, Mrs. Elden, assuming her husband's authority, and arraying herself in some old regimentals and a rusty sword, bid every other woman and daughter follow her. She had distributed two or three muskets to those who could handle them, and some old bayonets to others, commanding and encouraging them to prepare themselves as best they could. The preparations being made, she raised a feigned stentorian voice in word of command, as to officers and soldiers, at the same time parading the premises for the purpose of deceiving their red foes. In this manner with short intervals of rest by turns, they passed the night in long sus-

* Dea. Thos. Merrill.

pense and the succeeding day, till their anxiety was relieved by the return of their husbands and brothers, who were taken by surprise when they found every female in the costume of a warrior.*

Amidst all the trials and hardships of new settlers in a new country, the people of this town were not unmindful of their obligations to their God, and the concerns of their souls and the souls of posterity to come after them.

Accordingly they were supplied, *generally*, with the preaching of the gospel, at the expense of the proprietors, until the incorporation of the town. The first Meeting House was built of logs, at the cost of the proprietors, and stood about a mile from what is now the Lower Corner, toward Salmon Falls. This house being, after a few years, insufficient to accommodate the people, it was resolved, "July 22, 1760, to raise twelve shillings, lawful money, on each right, to be laid out in building another meeting house, on or near the Home lot, on letter G, saidhouse to be forty-five feet long and thirty feet wide, of a proper stud. Atthe same meeting, Joseph Woodman, Joshua Leavitt and Jeremiah Hill, were empowered to exchange land with John Cole, to set the meeting house on, and if need be, to lay out the money raised in building the same. On the 12th November following, the old meeting house was given to Samuel Merrill, by vote of the town, in consideration of his having opened his dwelling for meetings on the Lord's Day. Two hundred pounds, lawful money, were appropriated for building the meeting house, and what should remain, to be laid out to glaze and ground-pin it." †

The third meeting house was about as large as the present house, high studded and situated on the same lot, which is now occupied by the Congregational house. "It was finished outside, but had only plank seats laid on blocks, and so continued till the year 1790, when it was repaired and filled with pews." ‡

* Capt. S. Dunnel. † Proprietors Records. ‡ Dea. Thos. Merrill.

The first preacher, employed by the proprietors was the Rev. Joshua Tufts, who continued their spiritual Guide for two years. His successors were Mr. Thompson and Mr. White, neither of whom was regarded as being settled. No church was formed until March 1763, when seven persons adopting an orthodox creed, were publicly recognized as " The Congregational Church in Narraganset, No. One."

On the same day Mr. Paul Coffin was ordained their pastor, upon a salary of £50 sterling — £100 lawful money and sixty acres of land *settlement*, to which was added a pledge for reasonable additions to his regular salary, as should be needful and convenient." *

Another sixty acre lot was provided as a *Parsonage*, both lots being conveniently situated in the vicinity of the meeting house.

On the occasion of the " ordination, the usual number of clergymen was invited, but on account of the unusual depth of snow at the time, only four were present. Those who did attend, traveled with snow-shoes. Messrs. Little and Hemmenway with their delegates and other gentlemen, attempting the most direct course from Kennebunk to the Block House, passed so far to the left of their true course, as to prevent their reaching Saco the first day. They were, therefore obliged to remain one night in the woods, and suffered from the inclemency of the weather and want of food." †

" At the ordination, Rev. Mr. Fairfield prayed, Rev. Mr. Little preached the sermon, Rev. Mr. Morrill gave the charge and Rev. Mr. Hemmenway presented the Right Hand of fellowship; after which, the council and strangers present partook of a plentiful entertainment, provided at the expense of the proprietors, toward whom a very high sense of gratitude is recorded, for their generosity in erecting a spacious meeting house, and settling a gospel minister to preach the word of life." *

* Proprietors Records. † Charles Coffin, Esq.

Dr. Coffin was born in Newbury, Mass., was graduated at Harvard University, and as he sometimes remarked, in allusion to the capture of Quebec, he was a graduate of the glorious year 1759. He was a gentleman of good natural talents — of sound learning, and well read in his profession. He possessed much kindness of heart, was distinguised in the parish as a peace-maker, and by his amiable and dignified deportment, secured the respect and esteem of all around him. Being blest with a vigorous constitution, he was able to continue his pastoral labors for a much longer period than the averge of his ministerial brethren. His pastoral duties were confined to one church from his ordination, until the 6th of June 1821, when he was called to surrender his account of a sixty years ministry, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He was buried in the original cemetery of the town in the rear of the Congregational meeting house, leaving nine children, three of whom still survive."

"The last four years of his life, his infirmities required that he should have a colleague, and accordingly the Rev. Levi Loring was settled as junior pastor, and continued till July 8th, 1835, when he requested and received a dismission. Rev. Benjamin Rice who was next settled, remained the pastor of the church for about seven years. The pulpit was then supplied for nearly five years by Rev. Messrs. Baker and Merrill, until near the settlement of the present pastor, Rev. Joseph Bartlett, who was ordained Oct. 7, 1847.

The number of church members gathered while Dr. Coffin was pastor, was *seventy seven.* The whole number of member received since its organization up to the present time, is *two hundred and thirty-two.* The present number of the church *seventy-one.* The largest number added to the church in one year, was *twenty-five,* in the year 1831 — *sixteen* in 1818 — *fourteen* in 1842.

The number of marriages solemnized by Dr. Coffin was four hundred and eighty-four." *

* Church Records.

The second church gathered in the town was recognized on the 18th of Dec. 1799 and entitled "The Baptist Church in Buxton and Saco." It was composed of ten persons dismissed from the Baptist church in Coxhall (now Lyman). Their first pastor was the Rev. Abner Flanders who came from Salisbury, N. H., was ordained on the 12th of Oct. 1802, and continued the pastor of the church until 4th of May 1829, when his feeble health obliged him to desist from constant preaching. He lived however, and preached occasionally, until the 17th of June, 1847, when he fell asleep in Christ, aged seventy years, and was called to give up the account of his stewardship. His disposition as a man and his character as a christian and a minister, insured for him the esteem and confidence of all who knew him. Their next settled pastor, was Rev. William Bailey, who was ordained April 1st 1840 and dismissed March 10th, 1841; his labors being much blest, and fifty three were added to the church upon their profession of faith in Christ. Their third and last pastor, was Rev. H. B. Gower, who was ordained July 1848 and dismissed upon his own request, Oct. 1849. Rev. Adam Wilson supplied the pulpit the principle part of the time for several years. At the present time they are without a settled pastor, but have a constant supply by Rev. N. W. Williams. The whole number added to the church since 1799, is one hundred and seventy-five. Present number ninety-five.*

The third church instituted in the town, is the First Free Will Baptist, whose meeting house at Moderation Falls, is the largest in the town. "This church was organized about the year 1800, previous to which, however, it was organized as a branch of the Gorham Church. Their first meeting house was erected in the year 1806 and went by the name of the Brook meeting house, and continued in use, until the present one was built and dedicated in the month of June,

* Church Records.

1834, and furnished with the first bell in town. It was enlarged in the year 1847, and now contains eighty pews.

Among their early ministers were Elders McCorrison, Clay and Hobson, and later, we find the names of A. Hobson, C. Small, S. F. Chaney, J. N. Sinclair, and the present incumbent, J. M. Bailey, pastors.

This church takes the published "Treatise on the Faith of the Free Will Baptists," as a fair expression of their tenets. They hold themselves bound to promote the cause of Temperance, and the Benevolent enterprises of the day. Several revivals have been enjoyed by them. In 1830, 28 were added to the church. In 1842, about 60, and since that time, about 25. Present number of Communicants 150." *

The Second Free Will Baptist Church was the fourth in the order of formation. "It was organized April 8th, 1834, consisting of eleven members, being received by dismission from the first church of the same denomination in this town. This church was under the pastoral care of Elder Jonathan Clay, from its organization until his decease on the 20th of February 1849, a period of fifteen years. Elder Clay was succeeded by Elder James Crockett, the present pastor. The present number of members is seventy-nine." †

The fifth church, is the Methodist Episcopal, which meets in the north part of the town. Methodism was introduced into Maine in 1794 — a Circuit was formed in 1795, embracing all the territory of the State, west of the Androscoggin river, and Elias Hall was invited to preach in Buxton, which he did once, in the same year. In 1799 a Class was formed with Hugh Moore for leader. In 1800 the Circuit was divided and the part which included Buxton, was called "*Falmouth Circuit.*" In 1802 the labors of Asa Heath were greatly blessed — prosperity attended the society in Buxton, and a meeting house was built. From 1816 to 1847, the Circuit was gradually lessened in its territory, until it included *only*

* Rev. J. M. Bailey from Church Records. † Church Records.

Buxton. In 1848 the old meeting house was taken down and another built on the site of the old one. The church now numbers eighty-six members and is enjoying some prosperity. *

All the churches in the town, have been and now are *Evangelical*, being Congregationalist, Baptist, Free Will Baptist, and Methodist, and are liberally provided with meeting houses; the whole number being eight, in good repair and two of them having bells. Two of the houses, being four miles apart, are occupied alternately, for the convenience of the Congregational society, and two of the Methodist houses are occupied but a part of the time.

"The first Post Office in the town, was established at the Lower Corner in a small store opposite Capt. David Coffin's house; and Paul Coffin, jr. was appointed Post Master." †

At the present time there are three Post Offices; one at the Lower Corner, one at the Center, and one at Moderation Falls.

The first Physician was Dr. Sanborn, who came into the town in 1791, and tarried but a short time. He was succeeded by Dr. Royal Brewster. The *third* was the late Dr. Bacon, who, though almost entirely deaf, continued his practice till near his death in 1848, availing himself of the benefit of an ear trumpet. At the present time, their are three physicians practicing in the town.

The first Representative of the town in the Legislature of Mass., was Jacob Bradbury, Esq., who was elected in 1781, and enjoyed the suffrages of his fellow citizens for a number of years afterwards. The present Representative in the Legislature of Maine, is Stephen Lane, Esq.

The Hon. Judge John Woodman, who deceased about twenty-three years since, was a citizen of this town, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and a Senator in the General Court of Mass. for a number of years.

The first office opened in town for the practice of Law,

* Church Records by Elder Josiah Hooper. † Dea. Thos. Merrill.

was by Barker Curtis, Esq., who shortly afterwards removed, and was succeeded by Joseph Adams and Charles Coffin Esqs.

At the present time, it is an encouraging indication of uprightness in the transaction of business, that Charles E. Weld, Esq., is the only practitioner of law in the town.

The assignment of Narragansett No. 1 presented encouraging prospects to the proprietors and settlers, from the quality of its *land*—its water privileges and its proximity to neighboring markets. As a township, Buxton possesses a soil, second to no other in the county of York, and if instead of entering largely into the business of *teaming*, the yeomen of the place had more scientifically and throughly cultivated their farms, and early ingrafted their orchards with the choicest scions, agriculture would have been far in advance of its present state, and the aggregate value and profit of their land been much above the present.

The first Saw Mill, of which the Records give any account, was provided for in 1740, by vote of the proprietors, ten years before the permanent settlement of the town. On the 18th of June of that year, in a legal meeting of the proprietors "£80, old tenor, were voted to Mr. Samuel Chase, to enable him to build a saw mill, at a place called Gaine's Brook, upon condition that it be ready for use by the first day of March following, to have a convenient mill-yard of about two acres, for the use of the proprietors to lay their logs and half their timber. Mr. Chase was to have liberty to build a house and barn on the lot— to make a dam on both sides of the brook, with liberty to flow the meadows above the mill, with one dam, at all times, forever, hereafter; and to saw timber for any of said proprietors to the halves, at specified times of the year. The whole lot, mill and dam to be secured to said Chase forever, excepting only, that if he should fail to fulfill the agreement, the whole should then revert to the proprietors."*

* Proprietors Records.

The first grist mill was built on "Little River," opposite to Daniel Leavitt's mill, where he has now in use the same run of stones which were used in the original mill.

The first mills on Saco River, above Salmon Falls, were built at Moderation Falls in the year 1795, and the first at the Bar shortly afterward. †

"The first glass window in the plantation was procured by Rev. Mr. Coffin, who obtained from Saco a single pane of 4 by 6 inches, which he set in a board and placed in his study." ‡ Some time afterward, "he purchased four panes of 7 by 9 in Boston, at one shilling each, which were set in a sash and placed in his house."

"The first public school was established in the winter of 1761–2, under the tuition of Mr. afterward Rev. Silas Moody, a gentleman much approved as an instructor of youth, and highly esteemed as a man and a minister. When any person would speak highly of a teacher, it was considered sufficient praise to say that he was next to Parson Moody." § At a later period, besides several District schools, two Grammar schools were established, one at the Center and one at the Lower Corner; the latter in the year 1799, the former in 1800 which were taught through the whole of the year. There are now eighteen School Districts in the town, the longest of whose terms is four months in the winter and four months in the summer.

A large proportion of the school houses remain of the old model. A new and excellent school house is now nearly completed at the Center, surmounted with a cupola and bell, and has an ante-room for study and recitation. $1200 have been annually raised by tax for many years, which, added to the town's proportion of the Bank tax, gives the sum of $1500 for the support of the public schools, besides which there are several private schools a part of the year.

The healthiness of the town may be inferred from the longevity enjoyed by a large number of its inhabitants. The

† Dea. Thos. Merrill. ‡ Rev. Mr. Loring. § Charles Coffin, Esq.

earliest settlers are known to have lived, generally, to a great age; and at the present time the proportion of old people is thought to be equal to that of the most favored locations. The oldest man now living among us is Solomon Smith, who is about 90 years, besides whom are Zenas Paine, Esq., John Palmer, John Came, and Wm. Boulter, all aged 84, the last named being able to take the field and swing the scythe in the summer of 1849.

The oldest woman is Mrs. Sarah Ridlon, now 91 years. Next to her is Mrs. Libbey, who is 83 or 84 years, besides which, are many persons in the town from 70 to 75 years.

The early inhabitants were not without calamities. Three remarkably dry summers followed each other, which so shortened their crops as almost to occasion a famine, and caused extensive *fires* in the woods and among the poor log houses, occasioning much distress. In the year 1783, the 10th of August, there was a great and destructive *frost*, and in 1785 the greatest *freshet* which had then been known, causing much damage and ruin to mills and bridges. *

The state of morals in the town, whose population has but little increased for many years, has been regarded as comparing favorably with similar towns, especially since *Temperance* has been the order of the day.

"From the commencement of the town and down to a late period, the use of intoxicating drinks was, as generally throughout the country, almost universal; and it must be admitted, that the prosperity and happiness of the town have been impeded by the intoxicating bowl. Until about the year 1823 or 4, all classes of society thought ardent spirits to be useful, and adapted to all seasons and occupations, and indispensable as a token of friendship and respect.

One instance of brutal intemperance and *reform* may be useful to relate, in the case of Mr. John Boynton, who lived a few rods from the ancient public house kept by the well known Mrs. Garland. Mr. Boynton was unusually expert

* Dea. Thos. Merrill.

as a farrier and smith, and quick with his hammer. He is said to have made eight nails at one heat of the rod, and to cast and shoe a yoke of oxen in fifteen minutes. This expert workman (as thousands have done) contracted the habit of drunkenness by visiting the tavern, till his raging appetite so brutified him, and destroyed all self respect and regard to propriety that he sometimes went to bed with his boots on.

But reason and temperance gained the victory, and the poor brute again appeared as a man. After a severe struggle, he mastered his craving appetite (though living close by the tavern), and firmly adopted the only safe principle — "Total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks."

It happened on a certain day, that he badly injured his leg at Salmon Falls mills, when the indispensable remedy was immediately sought and procured. As the fiery stream was about to be applied, he exclaimed, "Not one drop of the poison shall come near my flesh,' and held his integrity till death brought the "end of earth," at an advanced age. This case, which occurred fifty years since, was an exception to the general rule, where intemperance abounded throughout society, and advanced with long and rapid strides. The venerable pastor, who then officiated at the altar of God, often lamented that the highest enjoyment of young men seemed to be in resorting to some place where the intoxicating cup was freely supplied, —and strange to tell, the deadly draught was to be had *by his own door*, where least it should have been expected.

The Rev. Mr. Loring introduced the tee-total pledge, and was its first signer — James Emery the second, and Daniel Appleton the third; the latter being President of the Temperance Society in the town. The lovers of and dealers in strong drink then sought to effect by ridicule, what they could not do by argument. But despite their ridicule and opposition, success attended the laudable efforts of the "cold-water men," till the venders of the burning, scathing fluid were compelled to carry on their nefarious traffic in a secret way, and under false and ridiculous names: and even now it is continued, in a few instances, in direct opposition to law.

In the pious and benevolent work of temperance the fair *daughters* of Buxton have a just claim for a share in the honor of this reform. They came up boldly to the pledge, and pledged themselves not to deal with those who trade in ardent spirits. The happy results of this reform have been order in society and in public meetings, instead of confusion, noise, and rioting, which once degraded the character and marred the peace of the community."*

It may be matter of surprise to many now present, but it is a fact in the history of this town, that three of our unfortunate fellow beings were unjustly held in slavery in this liberty-loving town, by three of the early settlers. "It is related of one of them, that being hardly dealt with, she undertook to reason the case with her mistress, and declared that she understood both to be made by the same Creator,—that he might have put the *moon-tan* on the mistress as well as on the slave, if he pleased; and, therefore, mistress had nothing to boast of, and no right to abuse her."

Of another case, a person now living among us relates that the slave suffered for want of suitable lodging and food, being obliged to sleep in the chimney corner in cold winter nights, and sometimes, impelled by hunger, he had come to her father's shed and eat the crusts that were reserved for the swine."*

At "Pleasant Point" a considerable amount was expended in the year 1831 by a Company, chiefly in Boston, who proposed to engage in the manufacture of cotton, wool, iron, and steel, and to invest about half a million of dollars in the enterprise. Some progress was made in the erection of a dam, &c., at the cost of the Company. But no further progress has been made, although the water power offers strong inducements to its use.

But it is time to relieve your patience, and I will do it in a few words of appropriate reflection.

* Capt. D. Appleton. Note C.

The history that we have now surveyed calls upon us to tread lightly upon the ashes of our revered fathers.

It was *your ancestors* who dared to encounter the toils of entering and clearing a wilderness, where the war-hoop of the savage was often heard, and forts, with arms and ammunition, were indispensable to their protection while breaking up the soil, planting their seed, and gathering their harvests.

To those heroic men belongs the praise of settling this fertile region, and laying the foundations of all the good institutions and privileges which their posterity enjoy.

Our ancestors! how did they expose themselves on the field of battle, and pour out their blood in defense of rights, natural and inalienable as the gifts of God.

Let me, then, by the ashes which repose beneath this soil, call upon you who are *aged* to transmit unstained and unimpaired to your heirs, the fair and dear bought inheritance of civil and religious freedom. Let me call upon you who are *fathers* and *mothers* to teach your children the true value of *liberty*, *temperance*, and *knowledge;* and above all, and more than all, let me intreat that, as the worthy proprietors of this township early laid the foundations of an *Evangelical Church and Ministry*, the same may be preserved by your example and your influence.

Finally, I call upon you, *young men*, to remember your pious and patriotic ancestry, whose inheritance you possess, to act worthily your parts, and to hand down, undiminished and unsullied, what you have received, to those who shall come after you.

That life can never be thought too short which brings nothing but shame and sin. Death never does its work too soon, when character and usefulness are disregarded. Be it yours, all ye who are young, to cherish the gratitude which you owe to your venerable sires, to maintain a reputation for virtue and respect for religion, that when the sun of your life shall go down, it may set in a cloudless sky.

NOTES.

A, p. 15. Major Samuel Appleton, who commanded the Massachusetts troops in the Narragansett war, emigrated to that Colony at an early period of its history, being of the third generation of the family in England. His right to a share in the seven townships granted to the Narragansett soldiers has continued, in part, in the possession of his lineal descendants — John, Isaac, Daniel, and his great great grandson, Daniel, the last of whom, is now resident on the farm which bears the original name of Appleton.*

B, p. 15. Mrs. Hannah Elden, widow of the late John Elden, who owned and occupied a large farm in the center of the town, says that her father possessed a record, which she had read and often seen in his desk, stating the birth of the first child born in Narragansett Number one.

C, p. 17. The names of those who served in the Revolutionary war were John Lane, John Lane, Jr., Daniel Lane, Jabez Lane, Isaac Lane, William Merrill (who died at home on furlough), Thomas Bradbury, Elijah Bradbury, Winthrop Bradbury, William Hancock, Mr. Boynton (supposed to have died in the army), Ebenezer Ridlon, Ebenezer Ridlon, Jr., David Ridlon, Samuel Woodsom, John Cole, Joseph Smith (taken by the Indians and never returned), Samuel Smith, John Elwell, Benjamin Elwell, Jeremiah Rolfe, William Davis, Thomas Davis, William Smith, Lemuel Rounds, James Rounds, Thomas Harmon, John Woodman, Nathan Woodman, Ephraim Woodman, Joshua Woodman, Moses Atkinson, Richard Clay, Jr. (who died in the army), Mr. Jose (supposed to be the only man killed in the army from this town), John Hanscom, and Michael Rand. Some others were out at Cambridge. John Elden, Jr., and Roger Plaisted were in the battle of Bunker Hill. Daniel Hill was a subaltern under his brother, Jeremiah Hill, of Biddeford. Several others were in one winter campaign at New York, among whom were Nathaniel Hill, John Owen, and Asa Simpson.†

* Capt. Daniel Appleton. † Dea. Thomas Merrill.

POEM.

The following Poem was written by Dea. Thomas Merrill, now of Turner, grandson of Samuel Merrill, one of the seven who commenced the *permanent* settlement of Narragansett No. 1, in the year 1750:

1

One hundred years have just passed by,
A compliment to time;
Old "Narragansett Number one"
Is just now in her prime.

2

In youthful days her hardy sons
Were but a few in number,
Some strove the forest to subdue,
And some engaged in lumber.

3

The fare was coarse and poor at that,
Some said they wanted bread;
But lived in hopes that they should see
Some better times ahead.

4

Wild beasts of prey and savage men
Did roam the forest round,
With gun and mattock side by side,
They had to till the ground.

5

At length came on the worst of all
They had to combat with,
When tiger-like that old John Bull
Did snarl and show his teeth.

6

Their sons went out, and fathers too,
Some stood on Bunker's height,
Where Warren fell they did contend,
Through all the bloody fight.

7

Sweet home and children! mothers, too,
Did nerve *their* arms with strength;
As the touched needle courts the pole,
They gathered round their tent.

8

'Tis thought by some, *this* is what makes
Our modern Democrat;
Our mothers said 'twas more than this
Our fathers aimed at.

9

Then come ye, every patriot son,
A Free-Soiler or not,
Drive all the smoky mist away,
The bondman is forgot.

10

Our fathers sipp'd the *ardent drink*,
In this they were not wise;
Their Sons of Temperance have caused
A brighter day to rise.

11

Our good old Mister Rumseller,
  A day of rest for you:
Your toil and labor in the field
  Have proved the proverb true,

12

That "Time and Tide does never wait
  For any one to stop,
And he that soweth sparingly
  Shall reap the leaner crop.

13

Religion, like the morning hue,
  That blushes in the east,
Comes flying on the wings of love,
  And brings domestic peace.

14

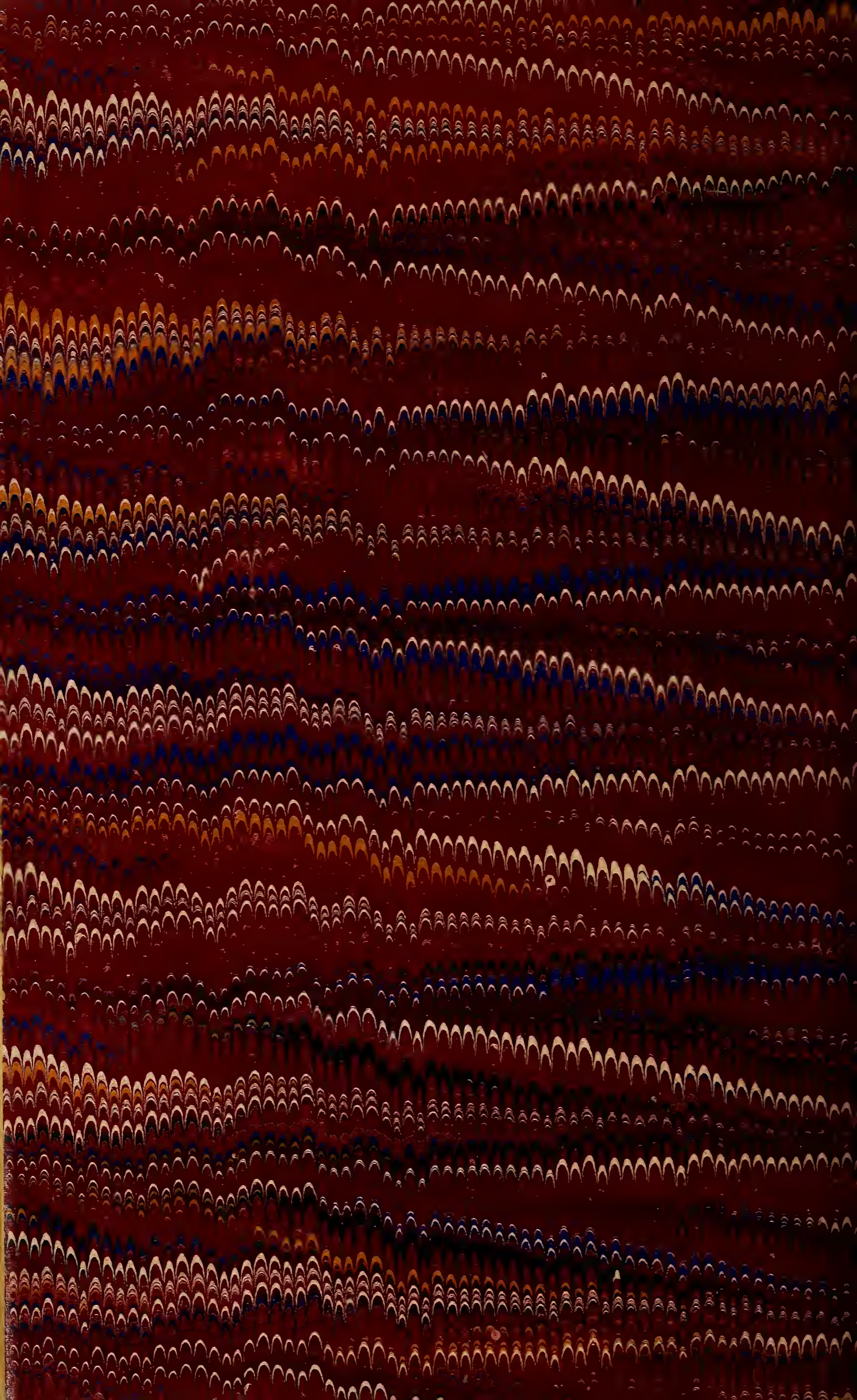
The Sabbath School, and mothers' prayers
  Have raised a mighty band,
To tell the story of the cross
  To all our favored land.

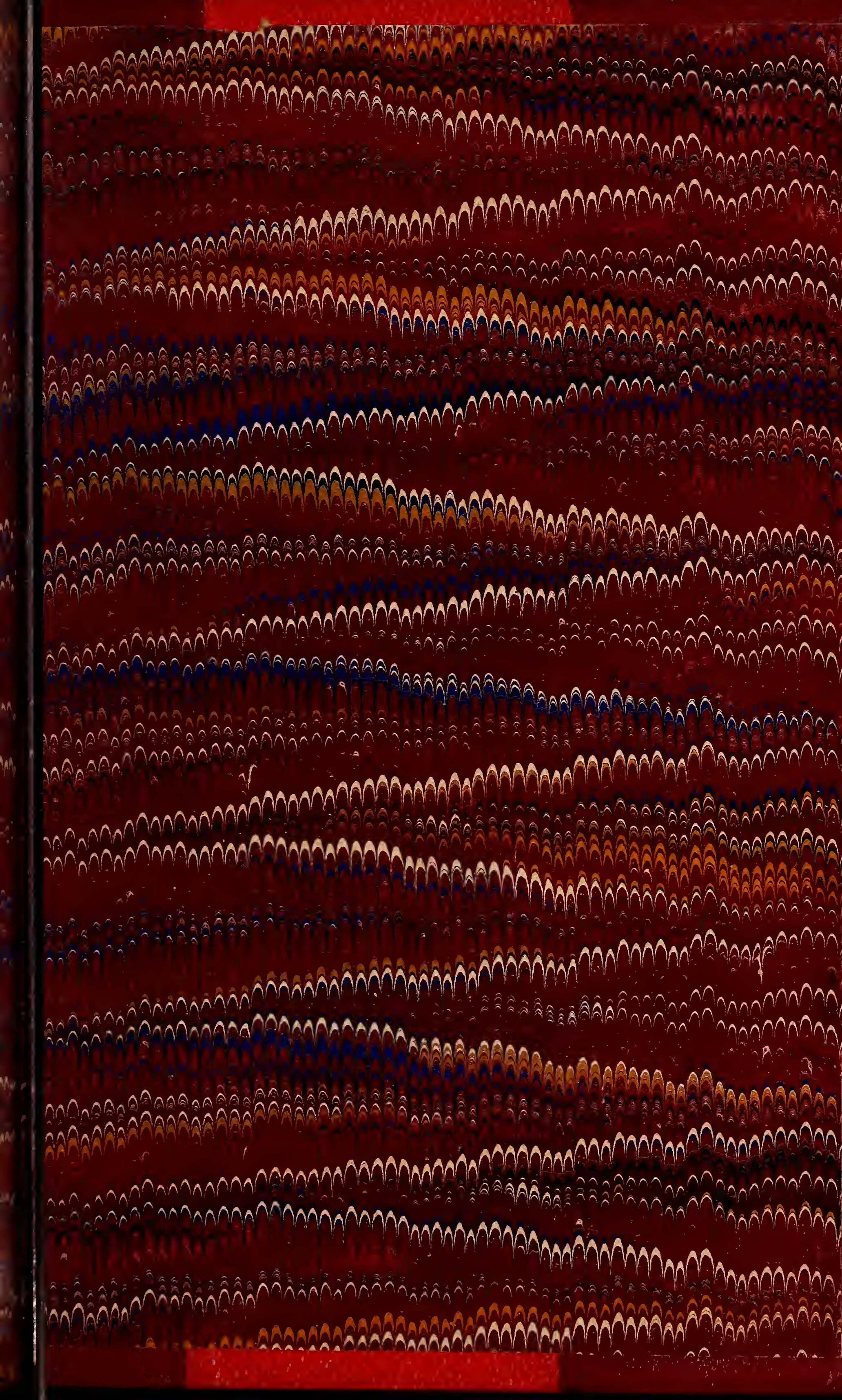
15

Bold infidels shall quail before
  This company of youth,
And children's children, rising up,
  Be bless'd with Bible truth.

16

This precious boon the Gospel brings,
  It makes the forest bloom:
Where once the savage Indian roamed,
  Is now sweet Freedom's home.






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